

NOTES

STATEWIDE:
In 1999, 65.5% of child support cases had an established court order*. The average collection per case with a court order established was \$133 per month.¹

Indicator

Child support

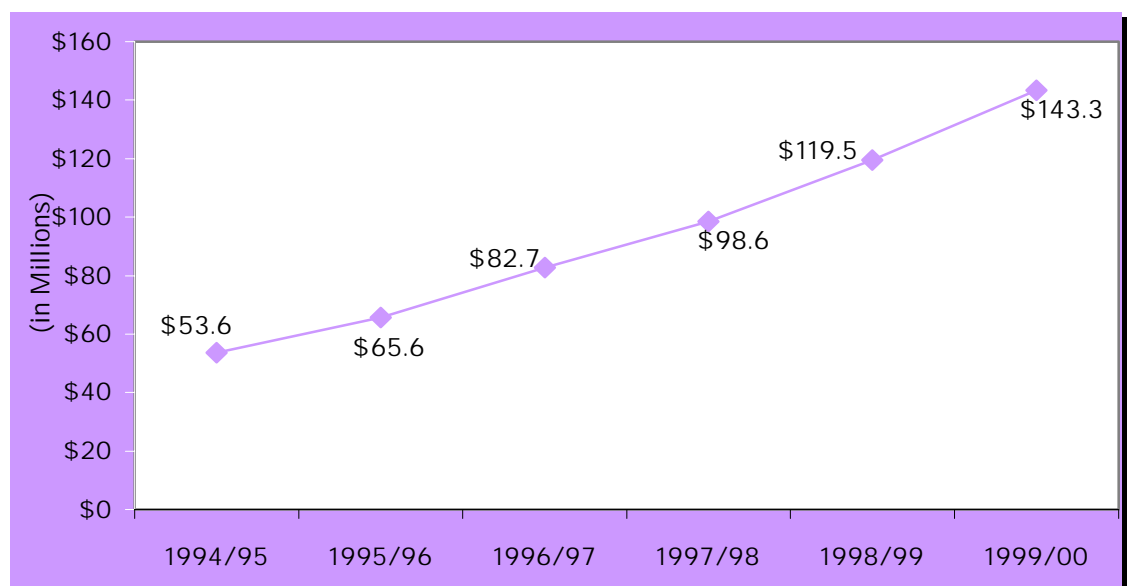
Definition

Number of child support cases, number of child support cases with court orders established, and total and per case amounts of child support collected and distributed.

Findings

In 1999/2000, there were 139,111 child support cases in Orange County with 111,699 or 80%, of total cases having a court order established. The average per case collection was \$1,030 a year for a total net collection of \$143.3 million.

Total Child Support Collections in Orange County



Orange County Child Support Cases with Established Court Orders*

| Orange County | 94/95 | 95/96 | 96/97 | 97/98 | 98/99 | 99/00 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Number of Cases | 136,710 | 144,316 | 145,682 | 145,101 | 140,772 | 139,111 |
| Total Number with Orders Established | 63,296 | 73,686 | 87,172 | 92,813 | 107,450 | 111,699 |
| Percent of Total Cases with orders | 46% | 51% | 60% | 64% | 76% | 80% |

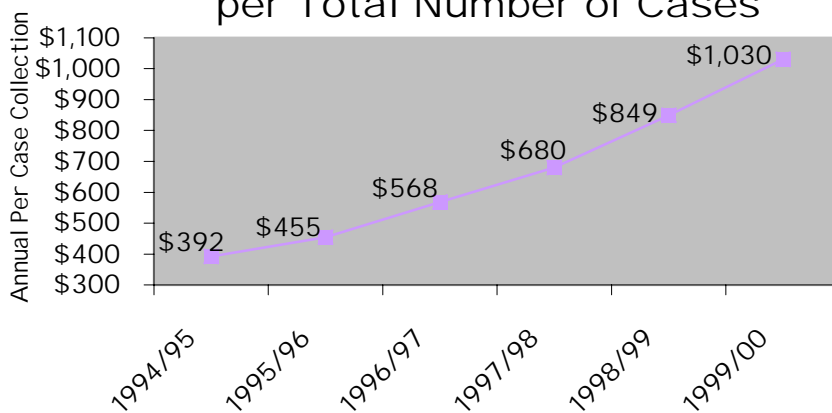
*Child Support cases with a court order established are a subgroup of the total number of child support cases.

RELATED INDICATORS:

- CalWORKs
- Supplemental Nutrition Programs
- Child Care

CHILD SUPPORT

Orange County Child Support Collection per Total Number of Cases



Trends

Between 1994/95 and 1999/00, the total number of child support cases increased 2%, from 136,710 to 139,111. Yet, the total net dollars collected and distributed increased 167% in the same period, from \$53.6 million in 1994/95 to \$143.3 million in 1999/00. Similarly, annual per case collection dollar amounts have increased from \$392 in 1994/95 to \$1,030 in 1999/00. The percent of cases with an order has also increased from 46% in 1994/95 to 80% in 1999/00.

Summary

The Family Support Division of the District Attorney's Office administers the child support program and is responsible for 139,111 active cases. This Division handles all aspects of child support establishment and enforcement. Planning continues at the State level for a single statewide system, with a transition of all 58 California counties to one of six interim consortia systems. The Orange County Family Support Division will convert to the state approved program ARS (ACSES Replacement System) in fiscal year 2001/02. This conversion to a new computer system presents some probable chilling effects on the statistics in the early months of post conversion.

Implications

Ineffective child support collections, ultimately, have the greatest impact on the children and families who depend on them. For single parent households, poor child support collections add to the already existing challenges of trying to secure full-time child care and making ends meet with only one income. State laws enacted in 1999 have changed the future direction of the Child Support Program: SB 240 (Speier), SB 542 (Burton), and AB 196 (Kuehl). The Child Support Program will no longer be administered by the District Attorney. Separate county child support services agencies will be created in each county, operating under the direction of a newly established State Department of Child Support Services. Effective July 1, 2002, the Orange County Family Support Division will transition from a county administered agency to a separate state administered agency.

NOTES



SEE
SUPPLEMENTAL
TABLES FOR
ADDITIONAL
DATA

NATIONWIDE:
In fiscal year 2000, the federal and state child support enforcement program broke new records in nationwide collections, reaching \$18 billion, a 50% increase over the \$12 billion collected in fiscal year 1996 when Congress passed reform legislation to strengthen and improve the child support program. Similarly, there was \$1.4 billion in overdue child support payments collected from federal income tax refunds for tax year 2000, which benefited more than 1.42 million families.²

DATA SOURCE:
Orange County
District Attorney's
Office/Family
Support Division

NOTES:
^{1, 2}U.S. Department
of Health and
Human Services,
Administration for
Children and
Families

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Indicator

Child Support

Number of Child Support Cases, Net and per Case Collection in Orange County

| Fiscal Year | Total Number of Cases | Total Net Collections (in Millions) | Per Case Collection (in Hundreds) |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1994/95 | 136,710 | \$53.6 | \$392 |
| 1995/96 | 144,316 | \$65.6 | \$455 |
| 1996/97 | 145,682 | \$82.7 | \$568 |
| 1997/98 | 145,101 | \$98.6 | \$680 |
| 1998/99 | 140,772 | \$119.5 | \$849 |
| 1999/00 | 139,111 | \$143.3 | \$1,030 |

Child Support Collections in Orange County

| Fiscal Year | Collections (in Millions) | Dollar Increase from prior FY (in Millions) | Percent Increase from prior FY |
|-------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1991/92 | \$40.4 | NA | NA |
| 1992/93 | \$46.1 | + \$5.7 | 14.0% |
| 1993/94 | \$49.7 | + \$3.6 | 7.9% |
| 1994/95 | \$53.6 | + \$3.9 | 7.8% |
| 1995/96 | \$65.6 | + \$12.0 | 22.3% |
| 1996/97 | \$82.7 | + \$17.1 | 26.1% |
| 1997/98 | \$98.6 | + \$15.9 | 19.2% |
| 1998/99 | \$119.5 | + \$20.9 | 21.2% |
| 1999/00 | \$143.3 | + \$23.8 | 19.9% |

Sources: Orange County District Attorney's Office, Family Support Division
State Department.